



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

JASON CROWELL
27TH SENATE DISTRICT

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 323
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

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CONTACT: BEV SCHEULEN
(573) 751-2459

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**Senator Crowell to Block Tax Commission's Decision to
Increase Taxes on Farmers**

JEFFERSON CITY — Sen. Crowell, R - Cape Girardeau, will introduce a Senate Concurrent Resolution to prevent the Missouri State Tax Commission from increasing taxes on farmers by raising the value on farm assessments. On Tuesday, the commission approved new “productive values” for agricultural land which would raise taxes substantially on the best farmland in the state.

“We need to be finding ways to lower taxes for our farmers, not increase the costs of owning a farm,” said Sen. Crowell. “Farmers are the backbone of Missouri’s economy and it is the states job to provide every avenue possible for farmers to succeed, not to create roadblocks.”

The Commission’s decision would increase farmland grades 1 through 4 productivity values, which are the evaluation of the land’s potential earnings and are used to calculate property taxes, by almost 29 percent or an average of about 90 cents per acre.

Both the Director for Missouri’s Department of Agriculture and The Missouri Farm Bureau disagree with the Tax Commission’s decision, warning that a tax increase could be extremely damaging to Missouri’s farmers as they work in this struggling economy.

Sen. Crowell continued, “I will not stand by as farmers are expected to bear more costs. Missouri farmers are seeing increases in production costs and an unstable market; they do not need more financial burdens from the state.”

The General Assembly can block the Tax Commission’s decision as it did when the Commission attempted to raises taxes on farmers the exact same way in 1998. Sen. Crowell’s resolution will follow closely to the actions taken by the General Assembly during that time, making sure the increase does not happen.

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